

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-07 PC-01 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 MCT-01
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P 140925Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2016
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4-7 PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0144

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO, TAGS, SUBJECT ADDED)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, CG

SUBJECT: INVASION OF SHABA: THE VIEW FROM KAMINA

1. SUMMARY. CONSUL VISITED NORTHERN FRONT HEADQUARTERS TOWN
OF KAMINA ON APRIL 11-13. ALTHOUGH INVADERS DO NOT PRESENTLY
POSE THREAT TO TOWN, MILITARY UNITS HAVE CREATED TENSE LOCAL
ATMOSPHERE. MILITARY IMPOSED ONE-DAY CURFEW TO SEARCH FOR
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INFILTRATORS ON MARCH 31 DURING WHICH ZAIRIAN POPULATION IN
CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TOWN TERRORIZED. DURING FOLLOWING TEN
DAYS HARASSMENT HAS CONTINUED. LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE HAVE
FLED TO SURROUNDING VILLAGES. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEM
TO HAVE LOST CONTROL OVER ACTIVITIES OF FREQUENTLY UNDISCIPLINED
TROOPS. POPULATION WHICH PREVIOUSLY UNHAPPY WITH GOVERNMENT
OVER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NOW THOUGHT TO BE STRONGLY OPPOSED FOR

POLITICAL REASONS AS WELL. REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ASSUMANI PLANS TO VISIT KAMINA ON APRIL 16, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY HE WILL BE ABLE TO REIMPOSE INFLUENCE OF CIVILIANS OVER MILITARY OR REESTABLISH MILITARY DISCIPLINE IN ABSENCE OF HIGHER LEVEL KINSHASA INTERVENTION. UNTIL DISCIPLINE REIMPOSED, LOCAL HOSTILITY TOWARD GOVERNMENT WILL INCREASE.

2. INTRODUCTION.

A. CONSUL VISITED KAMINA APRIL 11-13. LOCATED 225 KMS NORTH OF KOLWEZI, KAMINA IS OFTEN CITED AS SECOND PRINCIPAL TARGET OF INVADERS AFTER KOLWEZI COPPER MINING FACILITIES. KAMINA IS SUB-REGIONAL CAPITAL OF 56,000 PEOPLE, WHICH IS KNOWN AS RAILWAY CENTER, SITE OF ZAIRE'S LARGEST AIR BASE, AND MOST RECENTLY COMMAND HEADQUARTERS FOR CAPTAIN-GENERAL BUMBA'S NORTHERN SECTOR AGAINST INVADERS.

B. DURING VISIT CONSUL MET SUB-REGIONAL COMMISSIONER; MILITARY OFFICIALS FROM TOWN AND FROM BASE(LOCATED 24 KMS AWAY), ALTHOUGH GENERAL BUMBA REPORTEDLY NOT IN TOWN AT TIME; OFFICIALS FROM RAILROAD AND BREWERY; TWO HEADS OF SCHOOLS; TWO DOCTORS; AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MISSIONARY COMMUNITY.D

3. FAZ MILITARY SITUATION IN SHABA'S NORTHERN SECTOR:

A. ALTHOUGH KAPANGA, ONE OF FIRST TOWNS OCCUPIED BY INVADERS, IS ONLY 275 KMS AWAY FROM KAMINA BY AUR, INTERVENING POOR ROADS, DENSE SAVANNAH SCRUB, AND ABSENCE OF COMMUNITIES MAKE INVASION THREAT SEEM SOMEWHAT REMOTE ON SURFACE. THEORETICALLY, OCCUPATION
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OF KAMINA AND LARGE NEARBY MILITARY BASE WOULD SEEM DIFFICULT OBJECTIVE FOR RELATIVELY SMALL FORCE OF INVADERS.

B. KAMINA MILITARY SECTOR SAID TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN KAPANGA, SANDOA, AND KAFAKUMBA, ALL OF WHICH SINCE INVASION HAVE BEEN VERY QUIET. AFTER OCCUPATION OF KAPANGASAND SANDOA INVADERS HAVE CONCENTRATED THEIR ACTIVITIES ALONG RAILROAD ROUTE INTO KOLWEZI. ZAIRIAN TROOPS IN NORTHERN SECTOR HAVE MANEUVERED IN AREA AROUND KAFAKUMBA AND NORTH OF KAPANGA, BUT DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE SOUGHT CONFRONTATIONS.

C. TROOPS IN KAFAKUMBA THOUGHT TO BE LARGELY REMNANTS OF UNITS SENT INITIALLY TO PROTECT KASAJI AND SANDOA, BUT REGROUPED AFTER LOSS OF THOSE TOWNS. TROOPS AT MILITARY BASE IN KAMINA CONSIST MOSTLY OF NEWLY ARRIVED UNITS AWAITING TRANSPORT TO KOLWEZI OR UNITS RETURNING FROM KOLWEZI FRONT. NO KNOWN PRESENCE AS YET OF MOROCCAN TROOPS OR FRENCH ADVISORS.SMANY OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF MILITARY HEADQUARTERS,SAS IN CASE OF CAPTAIN-GENERAL BUMBA, OFTEN THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO

KAMINA TO REMOVE THEM FROM MILITARY/POLITICAL SCENE IN KINSHASA, KILWEZI, OR LUBUMBASHI. IN SHORT, OFFICERS AT KAMINA CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG POORER IN FAZ.

D. BASE ALSO HAS 250-BED MILITARY HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO SISTER, MOST OF PATIENTS ARE AMONG MORE LIGHTLY WOUNDED FROM ENCOUNTERS IN MUTSHATSHA AREA WHO WERE FLOWN INTO KAMINA. SISTER SAID MOST OF WOUNDS WERE IN HANDS AND FEET. NONE OF THE OTHER HOSPITALS IN KAMINA AREA CONTAIN WAR WOUNDED.D

4. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN KAMINA:

A. ALTHOUGH FRONT IS FAR AWAY, FAZ MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN TOWN OF KAMINA HAVE CREATED IMAGE OF FRONTLINE CONFRONTATION. MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED ON MARCH 31 WHEN NEWLY ARRIVED KAMANYOLA UNIT IMPOSED 2'-HOUR CURFEW TO SEARCH OUT INFILTRATORS. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NOT SUBJECTED TO MORE THAN SOMETIMES VERY SECRET

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THOROUGH HOUSEHOLD SEARCHES. ZAIRIAN COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN SECTIONS FURTHER FROM CENTER OF TOWN, SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE HARASSMENT. EVERYONE HAD SEPARATE STORIES OF THEFTS, BEATINGS, AND ARRESTS WHICH THEY HAD OBSERVED FIRST-HAND OR HAD SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM FAMILIES OF VICTIMS. AT LEAST 150 YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR FAILING TO HAVE PROPER IDENTIFICATION (OFTEN DESTROYED IN THEIR PRESENCE) AND TAKEN IN TRUCKS TO BASE WHERE SAME WERE BEATEN AND OTHERS PUT TO WORK. AFTER ONE WEEK AND PAYMENTS BY PARENTS OF 10 TO 30 ZAIRES, ALL BUT 15 REPORTEDLY RETURNED HOME.

B. IN FOLLOWING DAYS, VAST NUMBERS OF ZAIRIANS FLED KAMINA, REPORTEDLY UP TO 50 AND 75 PERCENT OF PEOPLE IN SECTIONS WHERE HARASSMENT HAD BEEN GREATEST. AFTER TEN DAYS ONLY HANDFUL HAD RETURNED. ALL NON-OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTED THAT TROOPS CONTINUED TO TERRORIZE ZAIRIAN POPULATION AFTER DARK IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TOWN. ON APRIL 11, BETWEEN EIGHT AND ELEVEN IN EVENING, FAZ PLATOON VISITED ALL MISSIONARIES IN TOWN AND INSISTED UPON POSTING 24-HOUR ARMED GUARDS IMMEDIATELY NEXT TO ALL MISSIONARY RADIOS. ONLY ORDERS WHICH THEY COULD PRODUCE SPOKE OF SURVEILLANCE OF PUBLIC RADIO NETS, SPECIFYING GROUPS LIKE THE RAILROAD AND OFFICE OF ROADS. COMMANDANT SAID LOCAL INTERPRETATION OR ORDER PERMITTED MISSIONARY SURVEILLANCE.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN /LUBUMBASHI 0144 VICE 1144/

5. REACTION TO FAZ HARASSMENT:

A. IN DAYS FOLLOWING MARCH 31, SUB-REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE POPULATION. IN ONE SECTION FROM WHICH
MANY HAD FLED, HE HELD MEETING WHERE HE WAS INFORMED OF PROBLEMS
OF MILITARY. HE GUARANTEED SITUATION WOULD NOT REOCCUR AND
SUGGESTED THAT ALL WHO FLED WERE AGAINST GOVERNMENT TO WHICH
CROWD RESPONDED WITH LOCAL EQUIVALENT OF BOOS. COMMISSIONER

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SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY INTERVENED AGAINST MILITARY IN CASE OF
MISSIONARY RADIOS. MILITARY HAD PLANNED TO SEIZE ALL RADIOS,
BUT HE PERSUADED THEM ONLY TO EXERCISE SURVEILLANCE. HE
DOWNPLAYED ACTIVITIES OF MILITARY IN VILLAGES, SAYING THEY WERE
PROTECTING POPULATION FROM INFILTRATORS. IN OPINION OF SEVERAL
PEOPLE, SUB-REGIONAL COMMISSIONER IS BASICALLY GOOD PERSON WHO
HAS TOTALLY LOST CONTROL OF LOCAL SITUATION TO ROTATING GROUQS

OF MILITARY LEADERS TURNED LOSE ON TOWN.

B. UNEASY CALM RESTS OVER KAMINA. SOLDIERS ARE EVERYWHERE. ACTIVITIES AT RAILROAD AND BREWERY, TOWN'S BIGGEST EMPLOYERS, CONTINUE IN NEAR NORMAL FASHION, ALTHOUGH BOTH HAVE HAD TO PROVIDE VEHICLES TO MILITARY. SHOPS ARE POORLY STOCKED AND GRADUALLY RUNNING OUT OF SOME GOODS, PARTICULARLY FLOUR. HARASSMENT HAS ALSO REDUCED NUMBER OF VILLAGERS FROM NEARBY COMMUNITIES WILLING TO BRING FRESH PRODUCE INTO TOWN. AFTER DARK STREETS ARE DESERTED EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONALLY PATROLLING SOLDIERS.

C. POPULATION OF KAMINA HAD NOT BEEN GREAT SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT BEFORE INVASION, BUT NOT OPENLY HOSTILE. BASIC COMPLAINTS ACCORDING TO SEVERAL WERE ECONOMIC, NOT POLITICAL. PEOPLE WERE UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF HIGH PRICES (MOST COMMONLY CITED WAS PRESENT COST OF 15 ZAIRES FOR A SACK OF FLOUR), LOW WAGES, AND LACK OF GOODS IN SHOPS. ACTIVITIES OF MARCH 31 AND IN FOLLOWING DAYS ADDED POLITICAL DIMENSION. NONE OF NON-OFFICIAL SOURCES HAD KIND WORD FOR GOVERNMENT WHICH PERMITS PRESENT LEVEL OF HARASSMENT.

D. PERHAPS 90 PERCENT OF POPULATION OF KAMINA IS LUBA, MOSTLY FROM SHABA, BUT WITH HIGH PROPORTION OF LUBA-KASAI AMONG RAILWAY AND BREWERY WORKERS. UNLIKE OTHER LUBA AREAS IN SHABA, KAMINA HAD SIDED WITH TSHOMBE IN SECESSION PERIOD. NOT ONLY IS LOCAL POPULATION HEAVILY SYMPATHETIC TO INVADERS, BUT LUBA FROM OTHER PARTS OF SHABA CURRENTLY RESIDING IN KAMINA SAID THEIR PEOPLE ALSO NOW LOOKED TO INVADERS AS OPPORTUNITY TO REPLACE PRESENT SECRET

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GOVERNMENT.

6. CONCLUSION:

A. KAMINA SEEMS TO PRESENT SITUATION WHERE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE LOST CONTROL OVER MILITARY AND AT SAME TIME MILITARY LEADERSHIP HAS LOST CONTROL OVER ACTIONS OF SUBORDINATE UNITS. AT PRESENT HARASSMENT IS DIRECTED AT ZAIRIAN POPULATION, BUT MOST OBSERVERS FEEL SITUATION COULD VERY EASILY CHANGE TO INCLUDE WHITES.

B. REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ASSUMANI SEEMS AWARE OF SITUATION AND IS PLANNING TO VISIT KAMINA ON APRIL 16. WHILE HE HAS HAD GREAT SUCCESS IN CURBING MILITARY EXCESSES AND MAINTAINING CALM IN LUBUMBASHI THROUGHOUT INVASION CRISIS, THE SITUATION IN KAMINA IS MORE ALARMING. STRONG ACTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO REIMPOSE DISCIPLINE OVER MILITARY. SINCE LOCAL MILITARY LEADERSHIP SEEMS TO CONSIST LARGELY OF REJECTS FROM OTHER AREAS, TASK WILL BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT. UNTIL MILITARY

LEADERSHIP IN KINSHASA REALIZES THAT BETTER MILITARY LEADERS
NEEDED IN KAMINA, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
ASSUMANI CAN DO MUCH TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS. UNTIL DISCIPLINE
OVER MILITARY CAN BE REIMPOSED, LIFE IN KAMINA WILL BE INCREAS-
INGLY DIFFICULT AND SUPPORT FOR THE INVADERS INCREASINGLY
STRONG.ABORG

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Message Attributes

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